

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 33, and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method, comprising:
receiving a selection of a portion of a query having a plurality of portions, wherein the query comprises an abstract query posed against a database abstraction model for a physical database;
annotating the selected portion of the query by operation of one or more computer processors and responsive to receiving, via an interface: (i) an annotation for the selected portion of the query and (ii) a request to annotate the selected portion of the query with the annotation; and
storing, on a storage medium, the annotation with a reference to the selected portion of the query.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the selected portion of the query comprises one or more query conditions.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the selected portion of the query comprises one or more instance values of data, where instance values are any particular value inputted in a field.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
providing an interface for building the query by specifying query portions; and
wherein receiving an indication of the selected portion of the query comprises receiving a user selection of one or more query portions specified, via the interface, for use in the query.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing an interface allowing the user to create a suggested substitution for the selected portion

of the query, the suggested substitution being selectable to replace the selected portion of the query.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein storing the annotation with a reference to the portion of the query comprises:

decomposing the portion of the query into one or more fragments; and
storing the fragments with the annotation.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein storing the annotation with a reference to the portion of the query comprises:

substituting a parameter marker for an instance value contained in the portion of the query; and
storing the portion of the query with the parameter marker with the annotation.

8-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium containing a program which, when executed by a processor, performs operations comprising:

receiving a selection of a portion of a query having a plurality of portions, wherein the query comprises an abstract query posed against a database abstraction model for a physical database;

annotating the selected portion of the query responsive to receiving, via an interface: (i) an annotation for the selected portion of the query and (ii) a request to annotate the selected portion of the query with the annotation; and

storing, on a storage device, the annotation with a reference to the selected portion of the query.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the operations further comprise providing an interface allowing the user to create a suggested substitution for the selected portion of the query.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein storing the annotation with a reference to the portion of the query comprises:

substituting a parameter marker for an instance value contained in the portion of the query; and

storing the portion of the query with the parameter marker with the annotation.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the operations further comprise:

monitoring one or more query portions specified for use in a query;

searching for annotations associated with the one or more query portions; and

providing an indication of one or more annotations, if found, associated with the one or more query portions.

22-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method, comprising:

receiving a selection of a portion of a query having a plurality of portions, wherein the query comprises an abstract query posed against a database abstraction model for a physical database;

providing an interface allowing a user to create an annotation and request to annotate the selected portion of the query with the annotation;

by operation of one or more computer processors and in response to receiving the annotation and the request, annotating the selected portion of the query ~~component~~ with the annotation by storing, on a storage medium, the annotation with a reference to the selected portion of the query;

monitoring one or more ~~components~~ query portions specified for use in a query being composed in a query building interface;

searching for stored annotations associated with the one or more query portions; and

outputting an indication of one or more annotations, if found, associated with the one or more query portions.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the query comprises a database query.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the selected portion of the query comprises at least one of a query condition, an instance value in the query condition, a specified result field, and a specified formatting of the result field.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[33]] 1, wherein the database abstraction model defines a plurality of logical fields that each define: (i) a logical field name, (ii) an access method, and (iii) a location in the physical database for accessing respective data elements in the physical database.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the access method is selected from at least two different access method types, wherein each different access method type defines a different manner of exposing specified data retrieved from a physical data field.

Please add the following new claims:

36. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the query comprises a database query.
37. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the selected portion of the query comprises at least one of a query condition, an instance value in the query condition, a specified result field, and a specified formatting of the result field.
38. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the database abstraction model defines a plurality of logical fields that each define: (i) a logical field name, (ii) an access method, and (iii) a location in the physical database for accessing respective data elements in the physical database.
39. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 38, wherein the access method is selected from at least two different access method types, wherein each different access method type defines a different manner of exposing specified data retrieved from a physical data field.
40. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the query comprises a database query.
41. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the selected portion of the query comprises at least one of a query condition, an instance value in the query condition, a specified result field, and a specified formatting of the result field.
42. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the database abstraction model defines a plurality of logical fields that each define: (i) a logical field name, (ii) an access method, and (iii) a location in the physical database for accessing respective data elements in the physical database.

43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the access method is selected from at least two different access method types, wherein each different access method type defines a different manner of exposing specified data retrieved from a physical data field.